



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

San Diego Public Library

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, October 5, 2009

CONTACT: Marc Chery

619-236-5817

SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY HOSTS EXHIBIT ON THE LIFE OF SOUTH AFRICAN FREEDOM FIGHTER HELEN SUZMAN

Traveling display stops in San Diego during Nationwide Tour

SAN DIEGO - The San Diego Public Library will host a traveling exhibition entitled **HELEN SUZMAN: Fighter for Human Rights**, regarding the iconic South African leader who devoted her life to the fight against apartheid. The exhibit will be displayed throughout the month of October on the first floor of the Central Library, located at 820 E Street in downtown San Diego. The public is invited to view the self-directed, panel exhibition at no charge during library hours: Sunday, 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.; Monday and Wednesday, 12 noon – 8 p.m.; and all other weekdays and Saturday from 9:30 a.m to 5:30 p.m.

Suzman was a member of the South African Parliament for 36 years, from 1953-1989. She was the sole opposition voice condemning apartheid during the 13-year period (1961-1974) when she was the governing body's only member of the Progressive Party. Though she faced animosity, anti-Semitism and intimidation throughout her career, she developed an enduring friendship with Nelson Mandela after meeting him at the infamous Robben Island, where he was being held as a political prisoner.

Nominated twice for the Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of her contribution to the pursuit of justice in South Africa, Helen Suzman received the United Nations' Award of the International League for Human Rights in 1978. Suzman died on January 1, 2009 at the age of 91; flags across South Africa were flown at half-mast while tributes poured in from around the world.

Organized by the Isaac and Jessie Kaplan Centre for Jewish Studies and Research at the University of Cape Town, this inspiring exhibition explores nearly four decades of Suzman's life and vision through photographs, personal letters, quotations from speeches and news articles to capture her work, courage and her voice.

Page 2

Press Release – Short Subject Title

Learn about other events at the San Diego Public Library's Central Library and 35 branches, find links to numerous additional resources, or search for materials in the Library's catalog online at www.sandiegolibrary.org.

The City of San Diego Public Library – Your Link to the Past and Gateway to the Future

#

#